

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, August 29. 1706.

I Formerly made a short Essay at the wonderful Concurrence of Circumstances in the great Actions now upon the Stage of the World; nor are my Observations at an End upon that Subject, which I shall carefully record, as the Revolution of Affairs makes agreeable.

But as I always gladly accept the Assistance of the curious Observer of such Cases, to help forward the useful Speculations of those, that love to remark the supreme Hand of their Maker in all the great things of this World; so I cannot omit the following Account sent me from an ingenious Hand.

S I R,

I Congratulate you upon the Taking of Meen-in, for it is not only an Advantage to the Publick Cause, but it will increase the long Catalogue you have given us of several won-

derful Circumstances and Events in this War; this important Place being evacuated on St. Lewis's Day. That pretended Saint is either out of date, or he looks upon Lewis XIV. as a meer Stranger, who doth not deserve his Protection. Most of the Lewis's Kings of France have been strange Men! 'tis very odd, that the Number of 666, the number of the Beast, is found in the Word, LVDovicVs, DCLXVI.

Lewis, or Clovis the first, was also the first French King whoever made War upon the Account of Religion; for he attack'd the Kingdom of the Vefigoths, upon no other reason than they were Arians. Every body knows, what Sort of a Prince was Lewis XI. who would make no Scruple to put any innocent Man to Death, provided he had kissed before hand a leaden Image of the Virgin Mary on the Top of his Cap. I except Lewis XII.

OR;

out of this Rule, for there is no Rule without Exception; he had a good Design of destroying the Pope according to his Medal, *Destruam Babylonis Nomen*, but the Time was not come. Now, Sir, as you have the Antichristian Number in the Word *Ludovicus*, so we have it also in the present French King, as he styles himself in French, *Louis quatorzeim roy de France et Navarre*. *LOVIs, qVatorze roy De franCe et naVarre, DCLXVI*, and it is impossible to find it in any other King of France besides him, tho' I should suppose, that the Name of Lewis be continued to one hundred. I come again to Wonders, and I observe, that the Battle of Ramellies was fought on Whitsunday; To make him sensible that he had profan'd the Name of the Holy Ghost, in declaring by his Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, that the Protestants should not be molested, till the Holy Ghost should enlighten them, at the same time, that he design'd to pour a World of Dragoons upon his poor Subjects, instead of the Inspirings of the Spirit. But, Sir, among the Wonders that you have taken Notice of, I am surpris'd, that you have not insisted upon the Series of them. The Eclipse was the first, that is, the Raising of the Siege of Barcelona, and from that very time every thing went against that King. One thing more shall conclude this Observation; they say, The French King was born with a Tooth in his Mouth, and that he spoil'd several of his Nurses, and at last nam'd him by giving him a good Blow on his Face with these Words. Oh you little Devil! But this is what my Author observes from it, Grotius was then at Paris, Ambassador from the Queen of Sweden and in his Letters, he looks upon this Accident as mystical. I don't know, saith he, what will become of this young Prince, but *Væ Vicinis!* the good Man was certainly then inspir'd; for he was not very forward to believe Mysteries in such things, and if he was alive, as he had well began, he would make an End of his Prophecy, and say, that this Nurse is great Brittain, who hath been the Cause formerly of his Increase, both in King Charles I, Oliver, and Charles II. Time; but when he designs to play the Knave and the Ungrateful, that very Nurse will tame him in a short time, and give him his Due; which

Payment is reserv'd to the Time, that a Woman is upon the Throne to make him more sensible of the Heavenly Decree.

There are not a few useful Observations to be drawn from these Circumstances, but as they are not my own, I forbear to Remark upon them, but leave them as they are to the judgment of the Reader; only give me leave to add two Remarks of my own.

First, That the Fleet for the Descent, on which an English Army is Ship'd, either as we hope to invade the immediate Dominions of France, or at least to prevent the growing power of France, carrying on their formidable Invasions of Spain, set Sail from Portsmouth, the of the same Month, that the French, in an unhappy Conjunction with the English and Dutch Fleets, ruin'd the Naval force of the Protestants in France, by Treating and Destroying the *Rochellers* at the Isle of *Rhee*.

How happily shall Her Majesty repair the Damage, which the jarring Interests of Princes and Courts formerly did to the Protestant Religion; her Royal and powerful Assistance shall, whether now, or at any other time, restore that prosecuted desolate Church to that Peace and Establishment, which our Ancestors too much neglected, or rather help'd to destroy.

Another Remark of mine relates to the Duke of Marlborough, observing his Graces Arms, quarter'd upon a spread Eagle, as the Arms of his new Honour confer'd by the Emperor, as Prince of Mindelheim in Germany, a Person of Honour being present gave me this Story; that Sir Winston Churchill, one of the Ancestors of his Grace the DUKE, a great many Years ago, I think it was said above 40 Years, being Repairing his house in Dorsetshire, caused the Arms of the Family to be painted upon a SPREAD EAGLE, Whether that Gentleman had any Prophetical Influence upon him at that time, importing the future advancement of his Family, I shall not pretend to determine; but that foreseeing Providence caused such a portending Circumstance to remain for Ob-

Observation, deserves our Remark, and teaches us, that Heaven had long since design'd the Off-spring of that Family for great Actions, which time should disco-

ver; and now the Events concurring with the predist'g Accident, make it the more admirable.

MISCELLANEA.

S I R,
" THO' you seem to have left off speak-
" ing to particular Cases, yet I per-
" swade my self, the extraordinary Cir-
" cumstances of mine will oblige you; the
" like I believe, having never been before
" you.

" When I was under Age, I took up
" Cloths to some Value, of a certain
" Woollen-Draper not far from the Strand;
" he not ignorant of my then Circum-
" stances, and I doubt not, making due Al-
" lowance for it in the Price.

" As soon as I came of Age, and had my
" Effects in my Hand; I order'd a Person
" that did my Business, as an Attorney,
" particularly to pay this Debt, I being in
" the Country my self, and he went once
" or twice to the Draper on purpose to do
" it, but could not find him at home.

" When I came to Town, I was several
" Times in his Company, and he knowing
" my Attorney had the Money for him, ap-
" pear'd fully satisf'd, and a little remain-
" der of 14 s. which ballanced the Account
" I paid him my self.

" Among the several times I was with
" him at his House, the last was Wednes-
" day the 21st. Instant, in the Morning;
" when parting with him, he very civilly
" sent his Man after me to invite me to
" Dinner, and accordingly I went back and
" din'd with him.

" I had no sooner din'd, but his Mea-
" sures being prepar'd, I suppose, while I
" was at Dinner; I was arrested for
" this Money, under the traiterous Delusi-
" on of a Treat.

" Upon the Arrest, I immediately
" paid him; and only give you this Ac-
" count to have your Opinion of the
" Matter, and to mark out the Man,

" that all Men may know how they must
" expect to be treated by him; the Truth
" of every Particular shall be attested upon
" Oath, and confirm'd by sufficient Wit-
" nesses at Demand.

Your humble Servant.

D. Deering.

If this is true, as the Gentleman con-
cern'd says he will prove, it is indeed a ve-
ry extraordinary Case, and must give a
very strange Idea of the Generosity of the
Woollen-Draper, to every Man that reads
it.

The Debt indeed was his Right, and the
Crime does not lye in the arresting the
Gentleman. But of all the Characters a
Man of Sense should deserve in the World,
that of Treachery to a Friend should be the
last; to speak to him fair, appear content,
and at last invite him to Dinner, and all in
order to insult him; has something so very
black in it, that really a Man cannot well
contrive an Action more scandalously base.

The first Part seems a meer Plot upon
the Gentleman for the Injury of his Repu-
tation; for if he was not easie with the
order given his Attorney for Payment, why
did he not complain it was not done, and
desire him to pay him? Why take the odd
fourteen Shillings, and not demand the o-
ther, this look'd like a Trepan to draw
him into what follow'd.

But to invite him to Dinner, and
arrest him, has something so barbarous,
and so stinks of Judas, is so destructive of
Faith and good Manners, and such a Sin
against Hospitality, that I can say no-
thing to it, but to tell the Woollen-Draper,
he escapes my Censure, only by commit-
ing